

SPECIAL MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
May 31, 2012

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Freudmann, Keane, Kochenburger, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer, Shapiro
Excused: Ryan

II. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Nancy Tomastik, Maple Road, urged the Council to keep all three schools and to look for state programs and subsidies which would make the renovations more reasonable. Ms. Tomastik also believes the referendum on the school project should not be on the November 2012 ballot. (Statement attached)

April Holinko, Mansfield Depot and Chair of the Commission on Aging, requested consideration be given to a new Senior Center. (Statement attached)

Alison Hilding, Southwood Road, asked the Council to solicit a review from the Bureau of School Facilities to find out how to keep the three schools and receive the highest rate of reimbursement. Ms. Hilding believes this option has not been fully vetted.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, agreed the referendum should not be on the ballot during the Presidential Election and would like to see the Mansfield Middle School project separated out.

Carol Lewis, Hillyndale Road, commented that given the Town's low rate of indebtedness it would be advantageous to begin the two school project now when interest rates are low. Ms. Lewis also stated demographic information shows there will not be a sufficient number of students in the future to support three schools.

Saul Nesselroth, Hillyndale Road, moved to Town because of the schools and believes the infrastructure needs of the three current schools are extensive. Mr. Nesselroth stated that given the level of repair needed to upgrade the current schools the two school option makes more sense.

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded that the Town Council go into executive session to discuss sale or purchase of real property in accordance with CGS§1-2006)(D). Also included in the discussion were Town Manager Matt Hart, Director of Planning and Development Linda Painter, Director of Finance Cherie Trahan and Assessor Irene Luciano.
Motion passed unanimously.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sale or purchase of real property in accordance with CGS§1-2006) (D)
Present: Freudmann, Keane, Kochenburger, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer, Shapiro
Also present: Town Manager Matt Hart, Director of Planning and Development Linda Painter, Director of Finance Cherie Trahan and Assessor Irene Luciano.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

The Council reconvened in regular session.

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Also in attendance: Director of Facilities Bill Hammon, Director of Planning and Development Linda Painter, Richard Lawrence of Lawrence Associates, Tom DiMauro of Newfield Construction, Superintendent of Schools Fred Baruzzi, Director of Finance Cherie Trahan, Director of Human Services Kevin Grunwald, Assessor Irene Luciano and Director of Parks and Recreation Curt Vincente

Ms. Painter reviewed long term and interim municipal use options for the three existing school locations as well as possible redevelopment options. Ms. Luciano reviewed the questions regarding the effect of using an existing school as a municipal building on property values and Ms. Trahan reviewed the timeline for the project.

Mr. Grunwald and Mr. Vincente discussed the possibility of the Senior Center and the Recreation Department sharing the building and grounds of one of the schools. There is a high demand for additional space for both programs.

Ms. Trahan and Mr. Lawrence reviewed the conversations they had with representatives of the Bureau of School Facilities regarding the Town's eligibility for a renovate-like-new status, noting the response was not favorable.

Council members discussed performance contracting regarding energy savings, the timing of a potential referendum and water capacity at Southeast School. Mr. Hammond described the Siemens energy project which was undertaken a number of years ago.

Ms. Keane requested a matrix listing the sites and criteria be created.

The Council will meet again on June 7, 2012.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Elizabeth C. Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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